

Tells How Red Helped West Avert A-War

CPYRGHT

Sickened by the intrigues of top Soviet officials and fearful that Nikita Khrushchev would touch off a nuclear war, a senior officer of Soviet Military Intelligence twice helped the West ward off war.

The role played by Col. Oleg Penkovsky, Russian war hero and Soviet Intelligence officer, was revealed today by a British businessman, Greville Wynne. Col. Penkovsky is believed to be dead.

Mr. Wynne, co-defendant when Penkovsky was arrested, tried and convicted of espionage in Russia in 1963, spoke at a press conference marking the release of the "Penkovsky Papers," published by Doubleday & Co.

"If it had not been for Penkovsky, you would have had more than a blackout in your city," Mr. Wynne declared.

CONTACT WITH WEST

Col. Penkovsky, using Mr. Wynne to establish contacts with the British and American Intelligence services, transmitted some 5,000 important papers to the West during the 1960 Berlin crisis and the 1961 Cuban missile crisis.

Because Penkovsky leaked the information on Soviet moves to the Western powers, Khrushchev was forced to back down in both crises, Mr. Wynne said.

The incidents are included in the book, "Penkovsky's Papers," a compilation of translated manuscripts prepared by the Colonel and smuggled out of Russia. Penkovsky reportedly died before a firing squad on May 5, 1963.

A completely new version of the U-2 spy incident in which American pilot Francis Gary Powers was brought down over Russia in 1960 was provided by the papers.

Col. Penkovsky reported:

"One of the 14 missiles fired at Powers' plane shot down a Soviet MIG-19 which went up to pursue Powers, he wrote, and the Russian pilot, a junior lieutenant, perished.